

VICE ADMIRAL JAMES A. ZIMBLE, MC, USN



Vice Admiral James A. Zimble is the thirtieth Surgeon General of the Navy and Director of Naval Medicine. In this capacity, Vice Admiral Zimble serves as the principal advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps concerning medical matters for both services. He is responsible for developing and establishing overall naval health care policies, priorities and directs program development in support of naval health care. Additionally, Vice Admiral Zimble reviews and assesses naval medical capabilities for health care delivery and medical readiness in support of both peacetime and wartime plans and programs. He serves as the Department of the Navy representative on the Defense Health Council, chaired by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs).

Vice Admiral Zimble was born on October 12, 1933 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After spending his formative years in Little Rock, Arkansas and Bala-Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, he graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1955 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He then studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine between 1955-1959, during which time he served in the Naval Reserve as a medical student, receiving his Medical Degree in 1959.

After serving a rotating internship at the U.S. Naval Hospital in St. Albans, New York from 1959 to 1960, Vice Admiral Zimble underwent training in undersea medicine with assignments to the U.S. Navy Deep Sea Diving School, Submarine School, Nuclear Power School, Nuclear Power Prototype School and Special Radiation Control and Health Physics course.

Vice Admiral Zimble was subsequently assigned to the commissioning crew of the USS JOHN MARSHALL (SSBN-611) as the "boat's" submarine medical officer. While onboard, he participated in sea trials, shakedown cruise and two deterrent patrols, thus qualifying and receiving his Submarine Medical Qualification in 1963.

Vice Admiral Zimble completed his residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the U.S. Naval Hospital, St. Albans in 1966. Follow-on assignments included: OB/GYN staff, Naval Hospital, Camp Pendleton, California (1966-1970); OB/GYN teaching staff, Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1970-1972); Chief, OB/GYN Service and Director of Clinical Services, Naval Hospital, Lemoore, California (1972-1976) where he developed and implemented the first physician credentialing program in the military; Director of Clinical Services, Naval Regional Medical Center, Long Beach, California (1976-1978) where Vice Admiral Zimble had clinical oversight responsibilities for a 150-bed referral hospital, a 50-bed satellite hospital and five satellite clinics at which he developed physician credentialing and quality assurance programs; Commanding Officer, Naval Regional Medical Center Orlando, Florida (1978-1981) where he developed an



in-barracks medical screening program for the Recruit Training Center and had oversight responsibility for the final construction of and transition into a 104-bed medical facility which replaced the original 1940 vintage cantonment hospital.

Upon promotion to flag rank, Vice Admiral Zimble's experience in corporate military medicine included: staff of the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, between 1981 and 1983, as The Medical Officer, U.S. Marine Corps, responsible for all health matters relating to approximately 192,000 Marine Corps personnel, including wartime medical support planning and programming; Fleet Surgeon, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, with additional duty as Command Surgeon, U.S. Atlantic Command and Medical Advisor to Supreme Allied Command, Atlantic, between 1983 and 1986, responsible for all health matters relating to approximately 300,000 personnel and planning for wartime medical support within the assigned geographic area.

In February 1986, Vice Admiral Zimble reported to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategic Planning and Medical Program Management, where he was responsible for the oversight of the development of an integrated worldwide master plan for military medicine, implementation of the Military Health Services System model through which the Armed Forces will apply wartime generated military medical manpower requirements to the accomplishment of the peacetime medical mission, and served as Executive Secretary of the Department of Defense Advisory Committee on Graduate Medical Education. He was promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral and assumed the duties as Surgeon General of the Navy and Director, Naval Medicine on July 1, 1987.

Vice Admiral Zimble is a Diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a member of the American Medical Association, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States and the Inter-Agency Institute for Federal Health Care Executives.

His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (three awards), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal and the Navy Meritorious Unit Citation.

Vice Admiral Zimble is married to the former Janet Bailey of Westfield, New Jersey. They have two sons and four daughters.

July 21, 1987